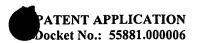WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An expression based pricing system comprising:

an interface configured to receive a request to price one or more items;

a pricing database that stores expressions that are used to determine a price
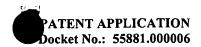
5   for the one or more items; and,

a pricing engine connected to the interface and the pricing database, the

pricing engine operative to create a script from the expressions and to evaluate the script

to determine a price for the one or more items.

10   2. The system of claim 1 wherein the interface is configured to receive an

identification of the buyer and seller of the one or more items to be priced.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein the pricing engine creates one or more

scripts based on the identification of the buyer, the seller, and the one or more items to be

15   priced.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the interface is configured to communicate

with and accept an identification of the one or more items to be priced and an

identification of a buyer and a seller from an EDI transaction system.

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5.   The system of claim 1 wherein the interface is configured to communicate with and accept an identification of the one or more items to be priced and an identification of a buyer and a seller from a shopping basket transaction system.

6.   The system of claim 1 wherein the interface is configured to accept a sales order, the sales order comprising an identification of the one or more items to be priced and an identification of a buyer and a seller.

7.   The system of claim 1 wherein an expression comprises a trigger and an action.

8.   The system of claim 1 wherein the one or more items comprise a group of items, further wherein the pricing engine is operative to create a script from the expressions and to evaluate the script to determine a price for the group of items.

9.   A method for determining a price comprising:

receiving a request to price one or more items;

creating a script that is operative to determine a price for the one or more items based on an expression language, in response to the request; and,

evaluating the script to determine a price for the one or more items.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein receiving a request to price one or more items comprises receiving a sales order specifying the one or more items to be priced.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of creating a script comprises:

locating at least one expression based on the one or more items to be priced; and,

generating the script from the at least one expression.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of locating at least one expression comprises:

locating identifying information from a sales order containing the request; and,

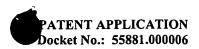locating the at least one expression based on the identifying information.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the step of locating the at least one expression based on the identifying information comprises determining whether a condition based on the identifying information is satisfied.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the step of locating at least one expression further comprises:

locating a contract based on the identifying information;

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locating a price plan based on the identifying information and the located contract; and,

locating a pricing schedule within the price plan.

5   15.   The method of claim 11 wherein locating at least one expression comprises:

locating one or more pre-pricing expressions that determine a price for the one or more items; and,

locating one or more post-pricing expressions that modify the price
10   determined by the pre-pricing expressions.

16.   The method of claim 15 wherein the pre-pricing expressions operate to alter a sales order containing the request.

15   17.   The method of claim 15 wherein the pre-pricing expressions operate to alter price for the item to be priced.

18.   The method of claim 9 wherein the one or more items comprises a group and wherein evaluating the script comprises evaluating the script to determine a price for
20   the group.